



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: 07-51

For Release: September 25, 2007

P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Amanda Ellison

Phone: 904-232- 1576

Email: Amanda.D.Ellison@usace.army.mil

FAX: 904-232-2237

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recently discovered historical documents result in downsizing of bomb target areas on former Pinecastle Jeep Range

Jacksonville, Fla. – After thorough and detailed analysis of historical records, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has revised the bomb target areas located on the former Pinecastle Jeep Range in Orlando, Orange County, Fla.

The Corps' continuing investigation into historical records relative to the former Pinecastle Jeep Range recently yielded additional information that further defined the affected areas. The Corps' technical team uncovered historical records that were previously not known to exist during the completion of the recent Site Inspection. Analysis indicates that the areas of concern on the formerly used defense site (FUDS) property are smaller than initially anticipated.

"These newly discovered historical records are significant, in that they help us to more thoroughly and specifically characterize the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site, and to plan the work that we need to perform to ensure continued public safety," said Wandell Carlton, Jacksonville District FUDS program manager. "Further, there is good news in that it appears that much of the residential area around the perimeter of the site may not fall within the areas of concern that we had mapped from previously available data."



The Pinecastle Jeep Range is a former World War II military training and demonstration site that is being investigated by the Corps under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS).

In July, surface munitions were removed from private property, owned by Mockingbird, LLC, adjacent to Odyssey Middle School in Orlando. In August, to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff, investigations were conducted on the school property prior to the opening of school. No items were found on the surface of the ground, and soil samples were free of munitions constituents. Analysis of data collected during a geophysical survey with a magnetometer, to detect buried ferrous metal objects for further investigation, is under way.

Investigations and further actions, if warranted, will continue in a phased approach, with the areas of greatest potential risk addressed first. Although it is unlikely that surface ordnance will be encountered in residential areas, it is vitally important that anyone who discovers suspected ordnance items follow the simple “3 Rs” of ordnance safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff’s Office immediately by calling 911.

A public information session to solicit interest for a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the site will be held on Thursday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 8978 International Drive, Orlando, Fla. The RAB is a community-based vehicle to provide a forum for two-way dialogue and information sharing. Individuals interested in the cleanup of the former Pinecastle Jeep Range project are invited to attend.

For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site or the upcoming RAB information session, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576.

#